

Let me be clear. I am a strong supporter of small businesses and family farms and I am not against reforming the estate tax. I believe that families with modest assets should be exempt from the estate tax. That is why I support the Pomeroy substitute which exempts estates worth less than \$3 million for an individual and \$6 million for families from the estate taxes. The substitute would exempt 99.65 percent of all estates.

The Bush Administration and their Republican colleagues have a one track mind. They are once again attempting to lower taxes for the richest 1%. Just last month the Bush Administration and leaders in Congress passed tax cuts for millionaires and tax dodging corporations. President Bush made it a top priority and Vice President CHENEY personally negotiated the final bill language with the Republican Congressional leadership. The tax bill passed last month will provide a \$604,000 tax break for Vice President CHENEY and \$332,000 to Treasury Secretary John Snow. In total, it could provide up to \$3.2 million in total tax savings for President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, and the Cabinet. I wonder how much the families of President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, and the Cabinet would benefit from repeal of the estate tax?

H.R. 8 undermines our basic sense of fairness. The legislation undermines progressive aspects of our tax code. It replaces it with a regressive tax code that puts more of a burden on middle and low wage families. A regressive tax code restricts opportunities for those who are not born into wealthy families. William Gates Sr., a supporter of the estate tax recently said, "What makes America great is the broad ownership of property and enterprise. We all succeed to the extent that children are born without vast disparities in access to education, health care, and opportunity. We are weakened when our policy makers are more concerned with preserving existing wealth and power than creating avenues for new asset creation and opportunity." I couldn't agree with him more.

Finally, the estate tax gives wealthy individuals an incentive to contribute to charity. Charitable organizations are very concerned about efforts to repeal the estate tax. According to the Joint Economic Committee Democrats, eliminating the estate tax could reduce contributions by 6 to 12 percent. This would reduce revenues for soup kitchens, AIDS prevention programs, and other vital community organizations that rely on charitable contributions to stay afloat.

Support America's families. Oppose the underlying bill and support the Pomeroy substitute.

TRIBUTE UPON RETIREMENT OF PAUL POGORZELSKI

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Paul Pogorzelski of Falls Church who is being honored by We United States Navy tomorrow for his 42 years of Federal service. But his abiding love of country and honor of service actually began at the young age of 12 when Paul joined the Civil

Defense as a messenger with the 72nd Precinct in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1956, Paul enlisted in the Coast Guard. Upon promotion, he was assigned to the Marshall Island Ioran station, and was responsible for the operation, maintenance and communication of Ioran equipment. After his return to the United States, he was an instructor of electronics in Connecticut. In 1960, he was honorably discharged with a good conduct medal.

He first came to Washington in the early 1960s representing Raytheon and General Electric on the TARTAR radar missile program. Paul then received a political appointment from Undersecretary Vance to the Naval Ordnance Command, working on patrol gunboat missile systems, Antelope and Ready; the Hydrofoil program; R&D and introduction of the frigate program; guided projectile program between NAVSEA and the Army at the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey; the readiness of all Navy ships improving their readiness through the CASREP program. He also traveled to Holland to purchase the forerunner of the MK-92 fire control system.

As an intelligence liaison officer at NAVSEA, Paul handled special projects including nuclear powered submarines. He provided survivability assessments for SEA-05, SEA-08, and the PEOs. As facilities manager he engineered and built sensitive, compartmented information facilities both in Crystal City and the Washington Navy Yard, and established interconnectivity with the intelligence community.

Paul has received numerous awards and citations for his efforts in providing the Command with accurate and timely intelligence information regarding the survivability and vulnerability of our ships that were hit by foreign weapons, such as the USS *Stark*, USS *Samuel B. Roberts*, USS *Bridgetown*, USS *Princeton*, and USS *Cole*.

Our Nation is privileged to have had such a dedicated civil servant for these many years. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today for his lifetime commitment of outstanding service to this Nation.

HONORING TED CONNORS

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ted Connors upon his retirement from the position of Executive Director of the Portsmouth Housing Authority after 35 years of service.

The son of the city's first night-shift police officer, Ted Connors grew up in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, known as "the City of the Open Door". Ted witnessed Portsmouth change over the years from a rough-and-tumble military town into the tourist and business center it is today. This native brought a valuable hometown boy's point of view to his position.

Ted displayed an inspirational devotion to improving the quality of life for residents in his hometown. His top priority was to expand work-force housing in the region in support of the growing number of local employees being driven out of the city due to increasing hous-

ing costs. His commendable efforts led to a significant increase in the number of subsidized apartments, from 200 to 1,200.

In addition to subsidized housing, Ted instigated numerous other services for the city of Portsmouth. He developed a transportation system that supplies 120,000 rides a year for elderly persons needing to travel to medical appointments, various shopping complexes, or centers for meals. Ted also oversaw the development and completion of a new Senior Citizen's Center in October 2000, which offers various programs such as basic health care, transportation, daily lunches and social activities.

Without Ted's commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents, Portsmouth would not be the city it is today. His efforts to make New Hampshire a better place have made a lasting impact on the people that know him and know of him. Even Ted's successor has admitted that no one can truly fill the retiring director's shoes. Portsmouth and the state of New Hampshire are fortunate to have dedicated individuals like Ted working to make this city and this state a great place to live.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE BOB STUMP

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I reflect today on the passing of my dear friend Congressman Bob Stump. Bob was a great man and I am deeply saddened by his passing. He was a great American, a respected legislator, and a good friend.

He served with great distinction in Congress for twenty-six years, two years as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and six years as Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

I had the honor and privilege to serve on both of these committees with Bob as my Chairman. Although we did not always see eye to eye, I always had a great deal of respect for Bob's patriotism and leadership. Bob was a true supporter of men and women in uniform. Under his leadership, we made huge strides to improve the quality of life for our troops and veterans, increasing pay, housing, and healthcare allowances, increasing assistance to disabled veterans and their survivors, and strengthening the Montgomery GI Bill to help millions of veterans fulfill their educational and career goals.

Bob was a modest and decent man who, in dedicating the majority of his life to public service, was a dedicated patriot and a true American Hero. Bob's enthusiasm and spirit touched the lives of all who had the pleasure of meeting him. Although his presence is greatly missed in the halls of the House, I know that Bob is and will be well remembered.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Stump family and with everyone else who loved and admired him.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.